

[group-education-all-employees] Response to Murder Trial of George Floyd and Resources for Advancing Justice

Mary Ann Danowitz CED Dean <educationdean@ncsu.edu>

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To: group-education-all-employees@ncsu.edu, group-education-grad-students@ncsu.edu, group-education-undergrad-students@ncsu.edu

Dear College of Education Colleagues and Students:

Yesterday jurors returned guilty verdicts on all three charges in the murder trial in the death of George Floyd. This is a step toward accountability and justice in this particular trial. But about 20 minutes before the guilty verdicts were announced, a Black teenage girl, Ma'Khia Bryant, was killed by police in Columbus, Ohio. As this shows, we still have a tremendous amount of work we all must do to advance justice for all, eliminate racism, and address violence in our nation. As Chancellor Woodson [stated in his message](#) to the campus community: "Although many across our university and nation are relieved to hear [Tuesday's] guilty verdicts, NC State's leadership and I acknowledge that many members of our NC State community also remain exhausted, angry and uncertain."

I know you have been flooded with messages and statements over the past year about racial injustice and violence. But I want you to know that our college does not just talk about advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice; we have taken actions, and we will continue to do the hard work for as long as possible to dismantle racism and hatred. Some steps we have taken include forming the [college's Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force](#); introducing a [Student Concern and Resolution Process](#) to hold our faculty, staff, and students accountable; establishing [new scholarships](#) to advance educational equity; [strengthening or starting programs](#) that enhances our work to prepare more culturally-responsive and equity-minded educators; and sponsoring activities and holding events where you can learn how or acquire tools to be [a champion of justice](#). As I have previously written about our call to action to become an anti-racist college, it takes all of us, especially those of who are white, to effectively address racism and other forms of oppression.

Below are a few upcoming events we're holding that will you give additional opportunities to be engaged in this work:

- **April 22, 3 p.m. | Cultivating a Sense of Belonging in Schools and Communities.** Join a panel discussion via Zoom featuring College of Education faculty and graduate students who will discuss what it means to "belong," how to develop a sense of belonging in schools and communities, and the influence of a sense of belonging on student outcomes and experiences. [Register to attend](#). Sponsored by the Offices of Undergraduate and Graduate Student Success and the College of Education Advancing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force.
- **April 27, 1 p.m. | COMID Tuesday Together: "COMID Celebrates the Contributions of Asian and Pacific American Educators and Students."** In preparation for Asian Pacific American Heritage month, which begins in May, this meeting held via Zoom will celebrate the culture and contributions of Asian and Pacific American members of our community, and includes a guest panel of faculty and students in the College of Education. [Join via Zoom](#) (Password: 299644). Sponsored by the Council on Multicultural Initiatives and Diversity (COMID) Tuesdays Together Series.
- **May 5, Noon-1:30 p.m. | Integrating Diversity and Social Justice into Your Practice.** Join this panel discussion via Zoom featuring a distinguished panel of teachers, administrators, and researchers as they share best practices and practical strategies for making your teaching more equitable, anti-racist, and just. [Register to attend](#). Sponsored by the Department of Teacher Education and Learning Sciences' Diversity and Social Justice Committee.
- **May 7, 2-3:30 p.m.: | Decolonizing Course Syllabi.** Join us via Zoom to discuss approaches to course design with considerations of culture and equity in education. Brian McGowan, Ph.D., an associate professor of education and associate director for the Center for Teaching, Research and Learning at American University, will

facilitate the workshop. [Join via Zoom](#). Sponsored by the College of Education Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.

You can also explore resources related to diversity, equity, and inclusion that the task force has previously shared in [the college's Pack IDEAs newsletter](#).

In addition, the leadership team and I will continue to explore ways and engage in initiatives that we, as a college within a larger university system, can visually and profoundly make a statement about our support for racial justice and equity, as well acknowledge the numerous lives unjustly lost in recent years, including George Floyd. We welcome your ideas and suggestions to strengthen our college's work in these important areas. Please forward your suggestions to [Senior Advisor for Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Joy Gaston Gayles](#).

Finally, because you may continue to feel fear, anger, or tension, I wanted to remind you about resources available for you. If you are a student who needs additional support at this time, please reach out to your advisor, our college's [Student Success and Advising Center](#), or the university's [Counseling Center](#). For faculty and staff, please contact your supervisor or the university's [Faculty & Staff Assistance Program](#).

As Chancellor Woodson encouraged us: "Please take time to reach out to others who might need some support, to have difficult conversations where needed and to always advocate for what's right."

Sincerely,
Mary Ann Danowitz, D.Ed.
Dean, NC State College of Education

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